Best Practices for Preparing and Delivering Informative Presentations

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Session Overview

- Who this session is designed for
- Session objectives: You will be able to...
 - Analyze future speaking situations
 - Outline an effective presentation using a template
 - Conduct thorough audience analysis
 - Self assess on three major components of delivery
- Your goals & interests?

Introduction

Effective informative presentations are...

- Purposeful
- Audience-centered
- Well-delivered
- Time-appropriate

Effective informative presentations are...

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Purposeful Presenting

- Clear goal
- Effective planning
- Sufficient practice

Clear Goal

- Central message
- Audience effect

Planning

- Why outline?
 - Aids focus
 - Clarifies organization
- Elements of an effective introduction
 - Attention getter
 - Announce topic
 - Relevance statement
 - Credibility Statement
 - Thesis with preview of main points
- Organizational elements
 - Previews and reviews
 - Transitions

Practice

- With outline in front of you
- With note cards
- In front of a mirror
- In front of a friendly audience

Review

- Purposeful presenting involves:
 - A clear goal
 - Planning (outlining)
 - Practice

Effective informative presentations are...

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Audience-Centered Presenting

- Before the presentation
- During the presentation
- After the presentation

Before the Presentation

- Audience analysis
 - Demographic
 - Psychological
 - Environmental

Demographic Audience Analysis

- Categorical, "census-type" traits of your audience
- Examples:
 - Gender
 - Ethnicity
 - Education level
 - Occupation
 - Geographical region
 - Religion
 - Sexual orientation

Demographic Audience Analysis

- Drawback: Stereotyping
- Best when: You don't know much about your audience
- An example:
 - Your topic?
 - Low-income mothers VS.
 - Engineering professionals

Psychological Audience Analysis

- Individual mental and emotional orientations to you and your subject
- Examples:
 - Attitudes
 - Motivation
 - Knowledge

Psychological Audience Analysis

- Drawback: Not always feasible
- Best when: You have opportunity to learn about your audience beforehand
- An example:
 - Motivated, favorable, unknowledgeable audience at state fair VS.
 - Unmotivated captive audience at mandatory workplace information session

Environmental Audience Analysis

- Physical and temporal environment in which you will be speaking
- Examples:
 - Physical setting
 - Occasion
 - Time of day
 - Order of speakers
 - Time/length of presentation
 - Technology

Environmental Audience Analysis

- Drawback: Last-minute surprises
- Best when: Environment has strong impact on speaking situation
- An example:
 - Mid-morning seminar at professional development conference with comfortable seating VS.
 - Evening presentation at a middle school cafeteria

During & After the Presentation

- During the presentation
 - Indirect feedback
 - Direct feedback
- After the presentation
 - Q&A session
 - Surveys and other formal feedback

Review

- Audience-centered presentations focus on the audience...
 - Before the presentation
 - During the presentation
 - After the presentation

Effective informative presentations are...

Purposeful Audience-centered Well-delivered Time-appropriate

Delivery

- Eye contact
 - Natural
 - Direct
 - Around room
- Vocal delivery
 - Natural/conversational
 - Well-projected
 - With vocal variety
- Physical delivery
 - Natural
 - Professional
 - Confident

Effective informative presentations are...

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Time-Appropriate

- Know your time constraints
- Know how to apportion your time
 - Intro (10%)
 - Each body main point (25%)
 - Conclusion (5%)
- Practice managing your speaking time

Effective informative presentations are...

Purposeful Audience-centered Well-delivered Time-appropriate

Thank you!

Questions?

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